

MARINE MAMMAL ENTANGLEMENT INFORMATION SHEET

24 HOUR HOTLINE: 1-888-256-9840

Whales, dolphins, and other marine animals can accidentally become entangled in fishing gear and other man-made materials that are in the ocean environment. While rare, and often not immediately fatal, these entanglements can hinder the recovery of endangered populations. By following the information provided on this sheet, you can play a direct role in protecting marine wildlife. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) depends upon the public to report entangled marine mammals. Only those authorized by NOAA Fisheries may take part in a hands-on disentangling response. However, the public can play a vital role in the disentangling response by providing accurate detailed information in a timely matter.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Report entangled marine mammals to NOAA Fisheries as soon as possible. A 24-hour emergency number is available to take your call 7 days a week (1-888-256-9840). Calling the U.S. Coast Guard also assures timely coordination with NOAA Fisheries.
2. Report the following information:
 - a. Location of the entangled animal;
 - b. Species or description of the animal if species is not known;
 - c. Approximate size of the animal;
 - d. Condition of the animal (wounded, entangled, bleeding, dead, alive);
 - e. Sea conditions at the time of observation;
 - f. Debris entangling the animal, including a description of where the animal is entangled;
 - g. If possible, take photographs or video that can be shared with NOAA Fisheries; and
 - h. Name and contact numbers for the person reporting the stranding.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

1. The hotline operator will contact the appropriate NOAA Fisheries representative.
2. The NOAA Fisheries representative will coordinate the appropriate response.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

1. Never approach an entangled animal. Entangled animals, whether dead or alive, pose risks to human health and safety.
2. Do not attempt to disentangle without NOAA Fisheries authorization.



P L E A S E P O S T O R K E E P O N Y O U R B O A T

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Contact Number: _____

Location: _____

GPS (If known): N _____
W _____

Describe Sea Conditions: _____

Can vehicles easily access this location? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Species of Marine Mammal:

☐ Humpback Whale



☐ Pilot Whale



☐ Bottlenose Dolphin



☐ Spinner Dolphin



☐ Hawaiian Monk Seal



☐ Other: _____

Are you still with the animal? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Does the animal's behavior appear normal? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If no, describe

Describe the gear entangling the animal (nets, ropes, buoys, colors, length of trailing lines, etc.). Include the location of the entanglement and any visible injuries.

Please try to make a drawing showing entangling gear, injuries, and any other distinct characteristics.



Did you or can you get photographs or video?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Please Remember:

- 1) Make all observations from a distance (for humpback whales 100 yds., for other marine mammals 50 yds.).
- 2) Never approach an entangled animal. Entangled animals, whether dead or alive, pose risks to human health and safety.
- 3) Do not attempt to disentangle without NOAA Fisheries authorization.

CALL 24 HOUR HOTLINE 1-888-256-9840

FAX FORM TO 808-973-2941